REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 12, 2003 (Paper No. 15). Claims 1 to 18, 32 to 53, 67 to 71 and 74 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 32, 36, 67, 71 and 74 are independent. Claims 117 and 118 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to acknowledge receipt of the certified copies of the priority documents filed on March 28, 2000.

Claims 1 to18, 32 to 53, 67 to 71 and 117 to 118 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,708,806 (DeRose). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to browsing electronically-accessible resources. One feature of the present invention is the use of descriptions of resources that are separate from the resources. The descriptions of the resources have descriptor components that have attributes representative of at least two axes of access to the resource. In addition, the descriptions of the resources have one or more links to the corresponding electronically-accessible resource.

The present invention reads the description of the resources and displays items of selection in accordance with an attribute representative of a first axis of access. The items displayed are associated with corresponding descriptor components of resource descriptions that have been read. The user can select one or more descriptor components using the displayed items.

The present invention also receives an indication of a further axis of access. Further items are displayed for selection in accordance with an attribute representative of the further axis of access. The further items correspond to child descriptor components of the one or more items that were selected by the user. A user can select one or more child descriptor components using the further displayed items.

Finally, the present invention has the feature of reading, via links, electronically-accessible resources in response to a received selection. In this way, the present invention first reads descriptions of resources and then reads the actual resource once a selection has been made. In addition, the present invention utilizes descriptor components having attributes representative of at least two axes of access to a resource. In this way, the present invention provides for multiple axes of access to a resource.

With specific reference to the claims, independent Claim 1 recites a method of browsing electronically-accessible resources using descriptions of the resources. The method includes the step of reading the descriptions of the resources. The descriptions have descriptor components having attributes representative of at least two axes of access to the resources, are separate from the resources, and have one or more links to corresponding electronically-accessible resources. The method further includes the steps of displaying items for selection in accordance with an attribute representative of a first axis of access, each item being associated with a corresponding descriptor component of a description read in the reading step, and receiving a selection of one or more descriptor components using the displayed items. The method also includes the steps of receiving an indication of a further axis of access, displaying further items for selection in accordance with an attribute representative of the further axis of access, wherein the further items

correspond to child descriptor components of the selected one or more descriptor components, and reading, via links, electronically-accessible resources in response to a received selection.

Independent Claims 36 and 71 are apparatus and computer readable medium claims, respectively, and correspond generally to independent Claim 1.

Applicant respectfully submits that the applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the above-discussed features of independent Claims 1, 36 and 71. In particular, the applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of reading the descriptions of the resources, where the descriptions have descriptor components having attributes representative of at least two axes of access to the resources, are separate from the resources, and have one or more links to corresponding electronically-accessible resources, and displaying items for selection in accordance with an attribute representative of a first axis of access, each item being associated with a corresponding descriptor component of a description read in the reading step.

DeRose relates to a data processing system and method for generating a representation for electronically published structured documents. DeRose receives as its input a document, represented in electronic form, which includes text content, descriptive markup and possibly non-text content (column 7, lines 61-64). DeRose teaches that the descriptive markup of an input document is interpretable as an ordered hierarchy of content objects (column 7, lines 65-67 - column 8, line 1; Figure 3). DeRose further teaches that the preferred markup language is the Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML) (see Figure 4). As can be seen in Figure 4, the descriptive markups in SGML are tags within the electronic document.

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DeRose further teaches that an element directory, containing an array of element descriptors, is created (see Figure 6). The process for creating the element directory includes utilizing a parser to the parse the provided electronic document. The process scans for SGML start tags, and if a new start tag is found, an element descriptor 90 is established (column 10, lines 60-67 - column 11, lines 1-19; Figure 8).

The Office Action, on page 4, equates element descriptors 90 with the description of resources as recited in Claim 1. In addition, the Office Action contends that DeRose's depth-first search of the element directory (column 16, lines 31-37; column 21, lines 1-25) corresponds to the present invention's step of reading the descriptions. Applicant respectfully disagrees with this contention. In this regard, DeRose's depth-first search of the element directory reads element descriptors 90 that are created from SGML tags within the electronic document. Thus, DeRose is not seen to teach reading descriptions of resources that are separate from the resource, but rather, reads the resource itself.

In addition, DeRose is not seen to teach or suggest that the descriptions have descriptor components having attributes representative of at least two axes of access to the resources. In this regard, the Office Action equates element descriptors 90 with the description of resources as recited in Claim 1. While, DeRose may teach the use of element descriptors, such as parent elements, child elements, and sibling elements (column 8, line 9-13), DeRose discusses the use of these element descriptors with reference to the entire element directory. DeRose makes no suggestion that multiple elements are used for each element descriptor 90, muchless that element descriptor 90 has descriptor components having attributes representative of at least two axes of access to the resource.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that DeRose is not seen to disclose or suggest reading the descriptions of the resources, where the descriptions have descriptor components having attributes representative of at least two axes of access to the resources, are separate from the resources, and have one or more links to corresponding electronically-accessible resources, and displaying items for selection in accordance with an attribute representative of a first axis of access, each item being associated with a corresponding descriptor component of a description read in the reading step.

According to another embodiment of the present invention, the description of resources and the resources themselves can be amended independently of each other. With specific reference to the claims, independent Claim 32 recites a method of annotating an electronically-accessible resource using a description of the resource. The method includes the step of reading the description of the resources but not reading the resource. The description is separate from the resource and has descriptor components, each of which comprises a name of a feature of the resource and an associated representative value for the feature, one or more of the descriptor components including a table of contents attribute, and one or more of the descriptor components including an index attribute.

The method also includes the step of displaying one or more tables of contents containing table of contents items. Each table of contents item is associated with a corresponding descriptor component that has a table of contents attribute. The method further comprises the steps of receiving a selection of one displayed table of contents item for the annotation and displaying an index containing index items. Each displayed index item is associated with a corresponding descriptor component that has an index attribute and is associated with the selected table of contents item.

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The method further includes the steps of receiving a selection of one displayed index item, associating the selected displayed index item with the selected table of contents item, receiving a choice of a representative value for the selected index item, and associating the chosen representative value with the feature which corresponds to the selected index item, wherein the chosen representative value and its corresponding feature provide an annotation of the resource.

Independent Claims 67 and 74 are apparatus and computer readable medium claims, respectively, and correspond generally to independent Claim 32.

Applicant respectfully submits that the applied art does not disclose or suggest at least the above-discussed features of independent Claims 32, 67 and 74. In particular, the applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of reading the description of the resources but not reading the resource, where the description is separate from the resource, and receiving a choice of a representative value for the selected index item, and associating the chosen representative value with the feature which corresponds to the selected index item, wherein the chosen representative value and its corresponding feature provide an annotation of the resource.

With respect to the claimed feature of reading the description of the resources but not resource, Applicant refers to the argument made above. Specifically, DeRose's depth-first search of the element directory reads element descriptors 90 that are created from SGML tags within the electronic document. Therefore, DeRose is not seen to teach or suggest reading the description of resources but not reading the resource, where the description is separate from the resource.

Additionally, DeRose is not seen to teach or suggest receiving a choice of a representative value for the selected index item, and associating the chosen representative value with the feature which corresponds to the selected index item, wherein the chosen representative value and its corresponding feature provide an annotation of the resource. DeRose teaches that cumulative search statistics can be displayed in combination with a table of contents (Figs. 12-13). The search statistics represent a frequency record for the selected search word (column 17, lines 30-46). The Office Action, on page 13, equates the cumulative search statistics with the representative value for a selected index item as recited in Claim 32. However, Applicant fails to see where DeRose suggests the cumulative search statistics are received as a choice. Rather, the cumulative search statistics are the result of a frequency record instead of as a choice.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that DeRose is not seen to disclose or to suggest reading the description of the resources but not reading the resource, where the description is separate from the resource, and receiving a choice of a representative value for the selected index item, and associating the chosen representative value with the feature which corresponds to the selected index item, wherein the chosen representative value and its corresponding feature provide an annotation of the resource.

Accordingly, based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, independent Claims 1, 32, 36, 67, 71 and 74 are believed to be allowable over the applied references.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the

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invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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